

the general supervision and direction of the Chair.

(2) All professional and other staff provided to the minority party members of the Committee shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the ranking minority member of the Committee, and shall work under the general supervision and direction of such member.

(3) It is intended that the skills and experience of all members of the Committee staff be available to all members of the Committee.

#### *Subcommittee Staff*

(b) From funds made available for the appointment of staff, the Chair of the Committee shall, pursuant to clause 6(d) of rule X of the Rules of the House, ensure that sufficient staff is made available so that each subcommittee can carry out its responsibilities under the rules of the Committee and that the minority party is treated fairly in the appointment of such staff.

#### *Compensation of Staff*

(c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Chair shall fix the compensation of all professional and other staff of the Committee.

(2) The ranking minority member shall fix the compensation of all professional and other staff provided to the minority party members of the Committee.

#### RULE 7: BUDGET AND TRAVEL

##### *Budget*

(a)(1) The Chair, in consultation with other members of the Committee, shall prepare for each Congress a budget providing amounts for staff, necessary travel, investigation, and other expenses of the Committee and its subcommittees.

(2) From the amount provided to the Committee in the primary expense resolution adopted by the House of Representatives, the Chair, after consultation with the ranking minority member, shall designate an amount to be under the direction of the ranking minority member for the compensation of the minority staff, travel expenses of minority members and staff, and minority office expenses. All expenses of minority members and staff shall be paid for out of the amount so set aside.

##### *Travel*

(b)(1) The Chair may authorize travel for any member and any staff member of the Committee in connection with activities or subject matters under the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Before such authorization is granted, there shall be submitted to the Chair in writing the following:

(A) The purpose of the travel.

(B) The dates during which the travel is to occur.

(C) The names of the States or countries to be visited and the length of time to be spent in each.

(D) The names of members and staff of the Committee for whom the authorization is sought.

(2) Members and staff of the Committee shall make a written report to the Chair on any travel they have conducted under this subsection, including a description of their itinerary, expenses, and activities, and of pertinent information gained as a result of such travel.

(3) Members and staff of the Committee performing authorized travel on official business shall be governed by applicable laws, resolutions, and regulations of the House and of the Committee on House Administration.

#### RULE 8: COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATION

##### *Records*

(a)(1) There shall be a transcript made of each regular meeting and hearing of the

Committee, and the transcript may be printed if the Chair decides it is appropriate or if a majority of the members of the Committee requests such printing. Any such transcripts shall be a substantially verbatim account of remarks actually made during the proceedings, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require that all such transcripts be subject to correction and publication.

(2) The Committee shall keep a record of all actions of the Committee and of its subcommittees. The record shall contain all information required by clause 2(e)(1) of rule XI of the Rules of the House and shall be available for public inspection at reasonable times in the offices of the Committee.

(3) All Committee hearings, records, data, charts, and files shall be kept separate and distinct from the congressional office records of the Chair, shall be the property of the House, and all Members of the House shall have access thereto as provided in clause 2(e)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the House.

(4) The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with rule VII of the Rules of the House of Representatives. The Chair shall notify the ranking minority member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of the rule, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on written request of any member of the Committee.

#### *Committee Publications on the Internet*

(b) To the maximum extent feasible, the Committee shall make its publications available in electronic form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BLUMENAUER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO CREATE A COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to establish a Cooperative Research Program

for Hazardous Materials Transportation.

This program will enable experts from the multiple Federal agencies responsible for regulating and enforcing the hazardous waste materials industry to join with the private sector and State and local governments to research cross-cutting issues in the transportation of hazardous materials that are not adequately addressed by existing mode-specific research programs.

Hazardous materials move through thousands of local communities across the United States every day, usually without the knowledge of residents or even of local officials. During the past decade, the United States Department of Transportation has recorded between 14,000 and 18,000 unintentional releases of hazardous materials during transportation on an annual basis. Between 1994 and 2003, these incidents resulted in 210 fatalities and more than 3,400 injuries.

Recent incidents involving the release of hazardous waste being transported by trains, including a 2001 incident in my district in Baltimore that resulted in a massive fire, as well as incidents in South Carolina, Texas and South Dakota that resulted in fatalities, have dramatically reminded us of the danger that these shipments can pose to our communities.

It is, therefore, imperative that we take every concrete step available to us to improve the safety and security of hazardous materials transportation, and the bill I introduce today takes a joint step towards enabling us to improve all facets of hazardous materials transportation.

□ 1415

Currently more than a dozen Federal agencies have regulatory, enforcement and operational responsibilities over the estimated 1 million hazardous materials shipments that are made on a daily basis in the United States.

These Federal agencies share responsibilities with literally thousands of State and local agencies and private sector actors, for anticipating and responding to the varied risks, including safety, security, human health and environmental risks associated with the transportation of hazardous materials.

A report just issued by the Transportation Research Board has found that perhaps the most notable gap in America's system of ensuring hazardous material safety and security is in the conduct of research that is cross-cutting and/or multimodal in application.

This is a wake-up call urging us to begin to address the transport of hazardous materials from a comprehensive multimodal perspective rather than from the isolated perspective of a single mode program or material type.

Modeling the successful cooperative research programs that already exist to study transit and highway transportation, my bill will create a cooperative research program that will bring